NEBRASKACCESS
Your Information Connection Across Nebraska

Title: Genre Study
Grade: 2nd grade | **Subject:** Literature
Created by: Synda Tindall, Elkhorn Public Schools (Dec. 2006)

Project Overview:

As students progress through school, it is important that they are exposed to and immersed in many kinds of print and many types of literature. A genre study is one way to accomplish that. Research shows that as the student analyzes the different types of literature, cognitive development increases because it allows the student an opportunity to apply similar skills and strategies, such as identifying themes discussed in one genre—fiction, for example—to other genres like poetry, reports, descriptive pieces and plays.

A genre study is also an opportunity for classroom teachers to collaborate with School Library Media Specialist allowing the student to make multiple connections in literacy instructions. A genre study can take the form of a literacy lunch bunch, co-teaching, or collaborative planning. In a genre study, students have the opportunity to expand their models of effective writing while identifying the writer's craft used within genres typically studied in elementary grades.

Objectives:

1. Students will identify the literary elements of common genres.

2. Students will improve comprehension by interpreting, analyzing, and evaluating written book summaries and reviews in order to categorize text into literary genres.

3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of accessing a database by following directions on how to select a chosen genre through Fiction Connection and NebraskAccess..

Standards Addressed:

1. *American Association of School Librarians/Association for Educational Communications and Technology Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning*
   - Standard 1: The student who is information literate assesses information efficiently and effectively.
   - Standard 4: The student who is an independent learner is information literate and pursues information related to personal interest.

2. *Nebraska L.E.A.R.N.S. Standards for Language Arts*
   - Standard 1.1.4.12: The learner will be able to identify, locate, listen to, and read from the following literary genres: traditional literature, such as folk and fairy tales, legends, fables, myths, and tall tales, poetry, easy fiction, and information books; fantasy, mystery, science fiction, biography, historical fiction.
   - Standard 4.1.2.5: The learner will be able to utilize print and/or non-print resources, such as electronic databases, encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauri, almanacs, and other reference resources.

3. *Elkhorn Public Schools Information Literacy Standards*
   - Standard 1.4, 1.5: The learner will be able to use the Internet to locate information.

4. *Elkhorn Public Schools Language Arts/Text Interaction and Reflection*
    - Standard 2-1 TIR: The learner will be able to recognize a variety of genre (realistic, fantasy, poetry, tall tales) and use for own purpose (enjoyment, research).

Materials Needed:

1. Computer with Internet connections
2. Access to NebraskAccess and Fiction Connection database
3. Genre Characteristic Checklist and explanations
4. Student Direction Sheet
5. Genre Grid
6. Sample of Genre Bookmark
7. Genre Book Review
8. Collection of books for the genre that students will explore.

Anticipatory Set:

Collect books for the genre that students will explore.

- **Discussion:** Write the phrase literary genres on the board. Name some synonyms for genre, such as kind, sort, type and variety. Explain that a genre is a specific type of artistic work. For example, music is a kind of art that can be divided into specific types or genres (rock and roll, jazz, rap and so on.)

- **Introduce and model the skill:** Review or explain that books can be divided into fiction and non-fiction categories. These two main categories can be further divided into genres. Write examples of common literary genres on the board (Biographies, science fiction, mysteries).

- **Check for understanding:** Have students name examples of books they have read or movies they have seen that would belong to one of the genres written on the board.

Step-by-Step Procedure:

1. Set the targets for the students--what will they be doing in this project?
    - Each student has moved to their own individual computer with access to the Internet, NebraskAccess and Fiction Connection.
    - Each student has a copy of the genre characteristic and explanations, Genre Grid, and a pencil.
    - Choose one genre and review with the students the characteristics of specific genre.
    - Explain to the student that they will be selecting two book titles per genre to be read and later reviewed.
    - After selecting a title, the students will record the title on the Genre Grid sheet to be taken to the library for check out.
    - Model for the students what they will be expected to do using the Smart Board following the directions given.
    - Ask the students to repeat to the teacher the steps for the teacher to follow to check for understanding.

        a. Click to access Internet Explorer.

b. On the URL address bar, type in NebraskAccess address: http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskAccess/index.html and click on return key and the Nebraska Library Commission site will open.
c. Click on the School K12 icon.
d. Click on Fiction Connection.
e. Click on Genre tab.
f. Select a specific genre. (Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Realistic Fiction, Science Fiction)
g. Click on name of specific genre.
h. On the right side of screen, under the heading "Refine results by," scroll down sidebar to "Reading Level."
i. Select "Children" and wait for new screen to open.
j. Go again to sidebar on the right side of the screen to "Refine results by." Scroll down and select "Juvenile."
k. Several pages of books will be available for your review.
l. To find out more about the book you might like to check out from the library click on the underlined title of the book.
m. Read summaries and reviews of books.
n. Select just two books from each introduced genre.
o. Write titles of books on Genre Grid.

Plan for Independent Practice:

Students will be completing this assignment for each literary genre on the Genre Grid. Customized bookmarks for each genre are also available. The bookmarks are customized for each given genre.

a. On the front of the bookmark, there is a space for the students to write the title, author, and their name as well as to recreate the book jacket or draw a scene from their favorite passage.
b. On the back, there will be a bulleted list of components of that genre.
c. Next to each of the bullets, the students will be asked to write a page number showing where in their book the elements were illustrated.
d. Answer any questions that students have about the assignments.
e. Since they will be working independently, make sure that they understand the activity before they begin.

Adaptations for students with Learning Disabilities; Gifted:

This lesson may be modified or adapted to meet the specific need(s) of the Learning Disabled student or the student with below grade level reading abilities. The adaptations are as follows:

- The student will have any or all of the directions, the steps to be followed, summaries or reviews read aloud to them by a teacher or teacher assistance.
- The student will receive assistance with navigating to the web site and to refine their search.
- The student may be assigned a partner to assist with any portion of the written assignment.

For the gifted or advanced reader, a completion of a Genre book review could be assigned after the student finishes reading the selected book. Ask students to share brief summaries (without revealing the ending!). Then, ask them to share their book reviews and bookmarks, which include numbers of passages from the books that illustrate why they fit into that genre.

GENRE CHARACTERISTIC CHECKLIST

FANTASY:
> contains elements that are not realistic
>> ✓ talking animals
>> ✓ magical powers
>> ✓ often set in a medieval universe
>> ✓ possibly involving mythical beings

HISTORICAL FICTION:
> stories centered around the basis of a partially historical situation
> a novel set in a historical period

MYSTERY:
> a novel involving:
>> ✓ strangeness
>> ✓ solving a puzzling event or situation
>> ✓ something unknown
>> ✓ solving a crime
>> ✓ centered around a person who investigates
>> ✓ wrongdoing
>> ✓ centered around a person or persons employed to obtain secret information

REALISTIC FICTION:
> stories that take place in modern times
> characters are involved in events that could happen.

SCIENCE FICTION:
> stories that often tell about science and technology of the future
> stories involving partially true partially fiction laws or theories of science
> Settings:
>> ✓ in the future
>> ✓ in space
>> ✓ on a different world
>> ✓ in a different universe or dimension

EXPLANATION OF GENRES

REALISTIC FICTION
√ could really happen
√ characters are like real people
√ characters try to solve problems
√ animal characters are like real animals
√ no magical events or characters

HISTORICAL FICTION
  √ contains pictures and language from the past
  √ contains true facts about people and events in the past
  √ contains factual and fictional characters or events

TRADITIONAL LITERATURE
  √ long ago setting
  √ uses magic or exaggeration to solve problems
  √ story is passed down from other generations

FAIRY TALES
  √ magic is used to solve problems
  √ imaginary characters and events
  √ frequently contains patterns of three
  √ frequently begins with "Once upon a time..."
  √ frequently ends with "...and they lived happily ever after."
  √ good conquering evil

FOLK TALES
  √ story is passed down from other generations
  √ frequently contains a message

TALL TALES
  √ contains exaggeration

FABLES
  √ animals that act like humans
  √ purpose of the story is to teach a lesson
  √ frequently ends with "...the moral of the story is.."

INFORMATIONAL
  √ tells factual information about people, events, or places
  √ may have maps, photos, diagrams, illustrations, or charts to help explain the facts

BIOGRAPHIES
  √ a true story about a person's life

REFERENCE MATERIALS
  √ including the encyclopedia, atlas, dictionary, thesaurus, or almanac

NONFICTION
  √ informational article or story usually about one topic
  √ may have maps, photos, diagrams, illustrations, or charts to help explain the facts

POETRY
  √ usually short
  √ may or may not rhyme
  √ may be written in verse form
  √ may have descriptive language or figures of speech
  √ shows feelings

GENRE GRID INSTRUCTIONS: Visit Book Connection to find two books for each genre below. Write whether the books are fiction or nonfiction. Then record the title in the final column.

LITERARY GENRE	FICTION/ NONFICTION	TITLES
BIOGRAPHY	1.	
	2.	
MYSTERY	1.	
	2.	
FANTASY	1.	
	2.	
HISTORICAL FICTION	1.	
	2.	
TRADITIONAL LITERATURE	1.	
	2.	
SCIENCE FICTION	1.	
	2.	
POETRY	1.	
	2.	

Sample of customized bookmark:

Realistic Fiction Bookmark
Name:
Title:
List the page number and a brief reminder of the genre characteristic you find as you read.
Includes Events That Could Actually Happen
p.
p.
p.
Set in Modern Times
p.
p.
True-to-Life Characters
p.
p.
p.
p.

Genre Book Review

GENERAL INFORMATION
　　　Your name
　　　Title of your book
　　　Author
　　　Publisher
　　　Copyright Date
　　　Total Number of Pages

SETTING
　　　What is the setting of the book?
　　　Where does the action take place?
　　　What time of year is it?

CHARACTERS
　　　Who are the main characters?
　　　Are the characters believable?
　　　Who did you like the most?　Why?
　　　Could you relate to any of the characters in the story?
　　　Have you even done some of the things or felt the same way as the characters did?

PLOT
　　　What is the conflict or problem in the story?
　　　What is the resolution of the story?
　　　How is the problem solved?
　　　What happens in the story?　List at least 5 major events.
　　　Did you like the ending?　Why?

PERSONAL OPINION
　　　What did you like about this book?
　　　What would you change about this book?
　　　What did you learn from this book?
　　　Who should read it?　Explain.
　　　What rating do you give this book?
- I couldn't put it down, it was so good!
- It was pretty good, and I wish the book hadn't ended so soon.
- It could have been better, but I still enjoyed it.
- It was hard to stay awake, and I can't remember if I finished it.
- I guess I'd rather eat my mom's cooked liver than read it.

Student Direction Sheet

- Click to access Internet Explorer.
- On the URL address bar, type in NebraskAccess address: http://www.nlc.state.ne.us/nebraskAccess/index.html, click on return key and the Nebraska Library Commission site will open.
- Click on the School K12 icon.
- Click on Fiction Connection.
- Click on Genre tab.
- Select a specific genre. (Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Realistic Fiction, Science Fiction)
- Click on name of specific genre.
- On the right side of screen, under the heading, "Refine results by" scroll down sidebar to "Reading Level."
- Select "Children" and wait for new screen to open.
- Go again to sidebar on the right side of the screen to "Refine results by" and scroll down and select "Juvenile."
- Several pages of books will be available for your review.
- To find out more about the book you might like to check out from the library click on the underlined title of the book.
- Read summaries and reviews of books.
- Select just two books from each introduced genre.
- Write titles of books on Genre Grid.

Assessment Rubric
Genre Study

Objective	Beginning	Progressing	Mastered
1. Followed directions in accessing Fiction Connection in database	Needs direct assistance to log-in and use	Accessed and logged in with minimal assistance	Accessed and logged in independently
2. Categorized and selected 2 titles for each genre	Correctly categorized 8 our of 12 titles	Correctly categorized 10 out of 12 titles	Correctly categorized 12 out of 12 titles